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BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE

JUNE 26—JULY 3, 1909

FIRST GENERAL SESSION

(Mt Washington Hotel, Monday, June 28,
1909, 8:30 p. m.)

THE first General Session of the Thirty-first Annual Meeting of the American Library Association was called to order by the president, Charles H. Gould, on Monday evening, June 28, in the Ball-room of the Mt Washington, at half past eight o'clock.

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and Gentlemen: It is my pleasant duty to declare this Thirty-first Conference of the American Library Association open. I am glad to see so many of you assembled here and I hope that we shall all find the week now beginning agreeable and profitable. I am sure at least that we must all contemplate with satisfaction the beauty of this spot in which we are gathered and the fact that we are assembled in such a commodious and beautiful hostelry,—I cannot bring myself to use the word hotel.

This Association has always been fortunate in the reception that has been accorded it wherever it may have happened to meet, and the present conference is no exception to the rule. Several months ago the highest functionary of the State, His Excellency the Governor of New Hampshire, wrote to extend to the Association a cordial welcome and his best wishes for the success of our meetings, expressing, at the same time, the hope that he might be enabled to be with us to-night. Matters of business, which it was impossible to defer or to omit, have prevented the Governor, at the last moment, from attending this meeting; but I am quite confident that he is with us in spirit, and, what is equally important to us, he is with us in the per-

son of his representative, Hon. Charles R. Corning of Concord. We are thrice glad to welcome Judge Corning to this platform. We welcome him as the representative of this beautiful State of New Hampshire; we welcome him also as the representative of the highest officer of the State, and we welcome him not one whit less as representing himself and as the guest of this Association. He has very kindly promised to address us,—he is even at liberty, if he sees fit, to admonish us. I have the great pleasure of asking him, now, to speak to the Association.

JUDGE CORNING'S ADDRESS

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the American Library Association: No one regrets more than I regret the unavoidable absence of Governor Quinby this evening, for he would have spoken to you those words of official welcome which must be considered the highest honor that any visitor to New Hampshire can receive. I am sure, knowing the Governor so well, that if he could be here he would soon convince you of the warm welcome New Hampshire has for you and your great Association. Unfortunately I cannot in the nature of things welcome you officially other than by proxy. I hold no high official position. In fact my position is rather that of a private citizen, but I consider it personally a very great honor to be invited by the Chairman of the Executive committee to say these few words this evening. I say I cannot welcome you officially, for the reasons I have stated, but I do welcome you on behalf of the good people of this State, the intelligent and the diligent readers, the book takers, your clients, and in their name, ladies and

gentlemen, I welcome you cordially to the Granite State. This is, I understand from the President, your second visit to New Hampshire, and, considering the attractive offers of many cities and many other localities, I wish to say to you that we appreciate all the more the honor you have done us by coming within our State.

It is hardly necessary for me to point out that New Hampshire is one of the smallest states in this Republic, small in territory and small in population, but we make up, I think, for these physical limitations by a history as noble as that of any commonwealth that owes allegiance to our common flag. From the beginning, from the colonial days down to this very time, New Hampshire has emphasized her valor, her resourcefulness, her courage and her industry on all occasions; and I can say as a loyal son and as an American that no sister state out-classes us in the record of arduous deeds done.

And our welcome tonight is not only for you who belong to us as countrymen and countrywomen, but for you, Mr President, and others, who come from beyond our borders. We wish you to know, you who swear allegiance to the beautiful Dominion of the North, that only the geographical line makes us twain; for, by the blessings of God we are one people, we have one language, one literature and one long, unbroken dream of peace and friendship. And may God in his wisdom ordain that these shall continue until the very end of recorded time.

New Hampshire has these mountains, these lakes, these rivers and this inspiring scenery, and some of you may wonder what our people do for their livelihood in a land so rugged. New Hampshire, to be sure, has not the fertility of the Middle West, nor the equable climate of the South, but we do have our compensations, and I say that we New Hampshire men and women born on this soil would not exchange our mountains and our lakes and our rivers gleaming through the fertile lowlands for all the golden grain of the West nor for all the picture land of the Pacific Slope.

There are, however, some obstacles that

confront us today. These things never appear in history, but New Hampshire suffers from two sources which probably never will be other than they are today, to-wit, emigration and education. The story of the emigration of New Hampshire's sons and daughters, if you could know it as I know it, is something startling. Almost from the beginning these young men and young women left us and went forth to enrich the sister states. All over the West you find the leaven of New Hampshire breeding. Even nearer home the story is the same. Draw a line ten miles around Boston City Hall, and you have over 10,000 New Hampshire men and women living in Massachusetts to add lustre to the old Commonwealth; and, as I told them down there once upon a time, incidentally to help along their politics.

The next feature is education. Now, New Hampshire alone of all the states has no common fund for the education of her children. Vermont on one side possesses a generous fund, and Maine on the other, and so with Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and all the western states,—all these states have common school funds, but not a dollar has this State. Every dollar that we raise to support our common schools is wrung,—I say wrung—it is gladly contributed year after year, by direct taxation. And yet New Hampshire is generous. When you think that we have no money whatever except what we raise from the taxation of our merchants, our manufacturers, our farmers, you will see that this is an obstacle not easily understood by you who come from more favored states.

New Hampshire has never been found wanting when any appeal has been made to her, and this very year she has appropriated \$1,000,000 for the improvement of the state highways. She has made her annual appropriation for Dartmouth college and she has passed an educational bill, which is one great step toward employing only certified teachers, that is, teachers who have been graduated from the high schools or from normal schools. The State gives to towns so much, according to what they pay the teachers who

are so certified, and so New Hampshire is not false to the trust of education. She still keeps burning on the hills the light of learning. Patriotic, believing in law, the dear old State that welcomes you through my unworthy lips is entitled to your love, to your consideration.

Now, I am not going to flay your patience with any statistics or any long array of figures, but some things I want you to know. In this State, not including railroads, but in factories and occupations of various kinds,—textile, mechanical and others, \$120,000,000 are invested, with an annual output of \$160,000,000, and wages are paid to about 125,000 men and women who work in these factories; and today in the savings banks of this little State lie \$84,000,000, largely the savings of these wage earners. A few years ago I had the honor to prepare the semi-centennial address in my native city, Concord, and I found to my astonishment and my delight that half of the population of that little city, scarcely 21,000, had deposits in our four savings banks exceeding \$5,000,000. Ah, ladies and gentlemen, thrift and scenery go hand in hand in New Hampshire.

Others will speak here during your sessions in regard to the libraries of our State and among them will be the distinguished and illustrious sons of New Hampshire who are here to-night, whose names I forbear to mention. But I do wish to call your attention to one of our city libraries, to the public library of my native city. In that city, whose population I have spoken about, 90,000 volumes go into circulation every year, taken out by about 8,000 readers who certainly show an unmistakable appreciation of the institution. The library in New Hampshire is by no means a new thing, but the modern library as we understand it has come within the last twenty-five years. Now it is becoming quite the custom for many of the returning natives, the well-to-do, those who have made money elsewhere and have come back to visit their native town, to commemorate their visits by giving to the native town a library; and as you ride through our State you see from the car windows, in little towns where you would hardly expect to

see a library, these brick or stone buildings, attractive and beautiful, testifying to the love of books, testifying to the love of reading, which is another attractive characteristic of our State. And I am glad to assure you that this benign custom is yearly increasing. The legislature makes appropriations to meet the library feature, and so, my friends, the State to which you have come is no unworthy state for this conference. Here amid these beautiful surroundings play and work are almost interchangeable, and I am sure that under the inspiration of this much favored locality, so full of nature's pageantry as almost to challenge successful rivalry, your sessions can not but be conducted to most successful conclusions.

And now, Mr President, I will close as I began, and say to you that I welcome you to New Hampshire in behalf of the citizens of this State, and I welcome you also to this hostelry of pleasure, this castle of hospitality, this Ultima Thule of perfect rest and delight, The Mt Washington.

THE PRESIDENT: On behalf of this Association, Sir, I thank you most sincerely for your cordial words. The warmth of your welcome has been so exceptional indeed that I imagine most of us, when on the train, felt it extended nearly to our homes. Yet, having arrived here, I am quite confident that all feel, as I do, that notwithstanding our naturally high anticipations, the half had not been told us of what is actually in store for us. I beg, Sir, that you will convey to His Excellency the Governor the thanks of the Association for the kindly greetings which you have voiced for him, and, in addition, that you yourself will accept from us our most appreciative thanks for the graceful and gracious words which you have spoken to us. We all feel that in coming to New Hampshire we have chosen one of the choice spots of this land which abounds in choice spots, and I am sure, with you, that the meetings which are to be conducted here cannot but be successful, if only because of these delightful surroundings.

The next item on the program is the President's address of which the title is